

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11, 13 and 15-41 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 13 are amended, claims 15-41 are added, and claims 12 and 14 are canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,961,220 to Som et al. This rejection is traversed for at least the reason that claim 1 as amended herein includes the subject matter of canceled claim 12, which was not rejected based on Som et al.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hile (U.S. Patent No. 4,620,658) in view of Nowlin (U.S. Patent No. 4,097,999). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 13, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Hile nor Nowlin teach or suggest that each of the contacting elements with its alignment structure is a single unit formed by a molding technique. As acknowledged in the Office Action, Hile does not teach this subject matter. In order to make up for this deficiency, the Office Action relies on the teaching of Nowlin. Nowlin teaches the use of an angle gauge made of Lexan. However, Nowlin does not teach the use of first and second contacting members with accompanying first alignment structure and complementary first alignment structure that align at certain angles between the blade and the handle. Nowlin's angle gauge does not include first and second contacting elements, or their respective first alignment structure or complementary first alignment structure. Therefore, there can be no motivation to modify Hile to replace the first

contacting element 31 and the second contacting element 25 from a molded material such as Lexan.

With respect to independent claim 13, the Hile/Nowlin combination does not teach or suggest that the first contacting element is positioned between the blade and the handle, as recited in claim 13. In Hile, the first contacting element 31 is not positioned between first and second members 13 and 14.

In addition, the dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 or 13, in addition to the further features they recite. For example, the Hile/Nowlin combination does not teach the subject matter of dependent claim 6, which apparently is not rejected based on the Hile/Nowlin combination.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hile in view of Nowlin, and further in view of Stromquist (U.S. Patent No. 2,689,406). This rejection is respectfully traversed at least for the reason that claim 5 depends from claim 1, and is allowable by virtue of that dependency.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claims 15-41 are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.


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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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